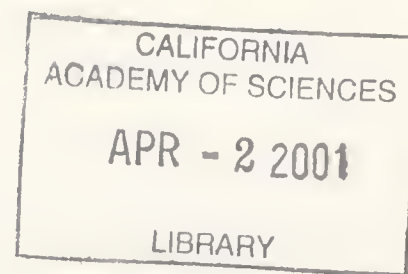
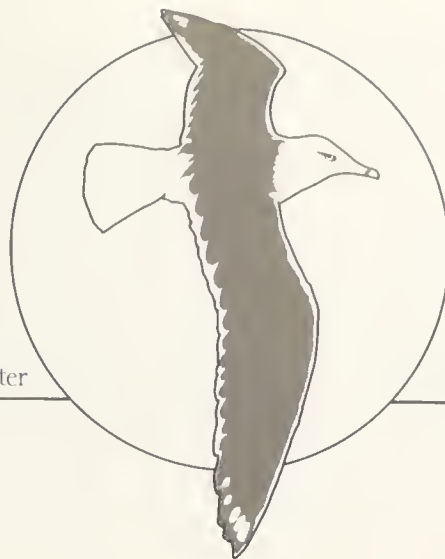


The Gull



Golden Gate Audubon Society Newsletter

Volume 85 No. 4 April 2001

GGAS Places Bid for Berkeley's Aquatic Park

—By Colin Sueyres—Contributing Writer for the Daily Cal

When a local organization that treats injured birds decided to leave Berkeley's Aquatic Park, the Golden Gate Audubon Society gladly stepped in with a bid for its spot.

The group, which operates from offices on San Pablo Avenue and Dwight Way, hopes to move into the space occupied currently by the International Bird Rescue and Research Center within the next few months.

That move will have to wait, however, until the proposal receives stamps of approval from the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Berkeley City Council.

The entire process will take approximately two months to come to completion, said Lisa Caronna, director of the City's Parks and Waterfronts Department.

Even though the proposal is not set in stone, members of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, who work to conserve and restore natural ecosystems for birds and other wildlife, are optimistic about their chances.

"Five of the council members, including Mayor Dean, uniformly liked our idea, but this was also before we had formally proposed anything," said Dana Kokubun, a spokesperson for the group.

Kokubun also said that to the best of her knowledge, there were no other bids placed for the site, as of the Feb. 21 deadline.

Though the group does not yet have a permanent claim on the site, they are already speaking highly of the 99-acre waterfront land.

"One of the great things about that site is the amount of coastal birds, including the endangered California Brown Pelican," Kokubun said. "And the nice thing about coastal birds is that they are big and distinctive, so even first-time bird-watchers can spot them."

The group, which has been a Berkeley tenant for 25 years, believes that its conservation actions are well-suited for the land.

"We're a good match for that area," Kokubun said. "We will offer information and learning opportunities to everyone who wants them. That is what we plan on delivering."

Retention of resources and education are key goals for the group, Kokubun said. The two main buildings in the park, nicknamed the "cabin" and the "classroom," are expected to provide for the staff and the park's operation areas.

"Our first move, if we get the lease, is to immediately renovate the cabin first," she said. "That way, we can set up the staff and information center there."

The next move would be to fix up the "classroom" and use it to hold classes for anyone who wants to learn more about the area, Kokubun said.

"When we are down at the Berkeley Aquatic Park, we will be interpreters of the park for the greater East Bay," said Arthur Feinstein, Executive Director of the organization. "We will use the park to lead field trips and try our best to make people aware of the

Continues on page 2

Mark your calendar NOW to attend the April Meeting in Berkeley on April 19th with Dr. Carla Cicero, a pre-eminent ornithologist. See back cover for details.

GGAS Places Bid...

Continued from page 1

wonderful resource that it is."

Kokubun called the sheltered and well-positioned park "an oasis."

"Eagles and herons eat their fish from the bay," Feinstein said. "It is just what you want, sheltered and close to the Bay, and it makes it very attrac-

tive to birds."

Feinstein added that it is a rich habitat, with more than 50 species of birds and many trees.

"We think this is going to be a real asset to the city—we hope the City Council will all say yes," he said. "I think it will be a wonderful opportunity for kids to see nature so close amidst all the concrete."

Kokubun said the group would be able to work with the university and provide internships for UC Berkeley students.

*Editor's note: This article appeared in the February 28, 2001 issue of the **Daily Cal** and is reprinted with permission.*

TripReports

Gray Lodge and Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, 12/2–12/3/00, Steve and Rene Margolin: 22 participants and 80 species. Many excellent birds were

seen including a Bald Eagle that was observed carrying a Ruddy Duck to a perch where the hapless stiff-tail was plucked and devoured. Yum yum!

Strybing Arboretum, 12/3/00, Allan Ridley, Helen McKenna, Josiah Clark: 35 participants and 44 species. The Williamson's Sapsucker that spent some time at the arboretum this winter was the first bird of the day. Also present was a pair of Hooded Mergansers. Notably absent: California Quail. **U.C.**

Botanical Garden, 12/3/00, Lillian Fujii, Steve Hayashi: 35

participants and 44 species. A Selasphorus Hummingbird, leucistic Red-tailed Hawk and Hermit Warbler were seen. Again, notably absent:

California Quail. **Crissy Field wetland, 1/14/01, Alan**

Hopkins: 35 participants and 48 species. Three species of cormorant, Red-breasted Merganser and Thayer's Gull were seen in and around this restored wetland area. Check it out!

Central Valley, 1/20/01, Harry Fuller: 22 participants and 73 species. Hundreds of Sandhill Cranes, dozens of Tundra Swans, Lesser Goldfinch, Snipe and an American

Bittern eating a little fish.

A CORRECTION

In the January Gull I attempted to thank all the generous folks who had led field trips in the year 2000.

However, the name of one (I hope it's only one!) of our valued leaders was missing from that list: Courtenay Peddle. Courtenay regularly surveys the birdlife at Arrowhead Marsh and leads several trips there throughout the year. Thank you Courtenay, and a thousand apologies.

Anthony Fisher
Field Trips Committee Chair

Raptor Observatory Seeks Volunteers For 2001

Tens of thousands of hawks, falcons, and eagles pass over the Marin Headlands each autumn, and in autumn 2000, more than 260 volunteers helped monitor this flight for the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory.

Since 1983, the GGRO has organized volunteers to conduct ground counts, banding and radiotracking studies in order to monitor the health

of our region's birds of prey. We're currently looking for new adult volunteers to commit to one day every two weeks for the August through December 2001 season, along with some weekend and evening trainings in July. Come to one of three Recruitment Classes to see if you want to get involved: Wednesday, April 25, or Thursday, April 26, from 7 to 9:30 p.m.; or Saturday, April 28,

from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m..

All meetings will be held at GGNRA headquarters, Building 201 at Upper Fort Mason, in San Francisco. Enter the fort at Franklin and Bay. For more information, call the GGRO (415) 331-0730 or e-mail us at ggro@ggupa.org. Visit GGRO's website at www.ggro.org.

Nominations To The GGAS Board Of Directors – Mail Ballot

The Nominating Committee of the current GGAS Board of Directors is pleased to present its nominations for elected positions on the GGAS Board of Directors for 2001–2002. The new directors will take office at the Annual Meeting in June. Please fill out the ballot below and send it to the GGAS Office (2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702) by the ballot deadline, May 17, 2001.

POSITION	NOMINEE	YES	NO
Second Vice President	Miles McKey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recording Secretary	Pat Gannon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corresponding Secretary	Carolyn Kolka	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Treasurer	Ann Howard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
East Bay Director	Kay Carney ('03)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Help! We need volunteers for our hosting days at ACR

Our hosting days are March 25, April 7, 8, and 28, May 13, 19, 26 and 27, June 30, and July 1 and 8. Please call our ACR–Host volunteer coordinator Bill Hering at 415–863–3625 and sign up for a spring day at ACR's Bolinas Lagoon Preserve. Call Bill and select a date you can make and have a great time. We look forward to seeing you there. Better yet, get a few of your friend to come with you for a great day in west Marin.

For additional information see the March GULL.

Wanted and Needed: New WebMaster

Our current WebMaster is overloaded and needs help maintaining the Golden Gate Audubon Society (GGAS) website. This is a great opportunity to use your web skills to

keep the GGAS Web Site up to date and as informative and exciting as it currently is.

You should have some familiarity with maintaining web sites that are primarily HTML–based. Experience with a current web site tool such as Adobe SiteMill or Microsoft FrontPage is desirable. The current WebMaster will help you get up to speed and provide ongoing architectural and technical direction.

If you are interested, please call the GGAS Office at 510–843–2222 or email us at ggas@compuserve.com.

Thanks. It will be a very rewarding experience.

Its No Laughing Matter

Mark your calendars for May 17th, and don't miss our May program at the Josephine Randall Museum. Dr. Steve Glickman, one of the world's experts on the spotted hyena, will be on hand to show us the intriguing life of this most unique creature of

the African savannah. Sometimes ridiculed and often misunderstood, the hyena has many peculiar traits that make it a most captivating study. Starting with an account of the most masculine genitalia among all female mammals, we'll learn all about their complex female-dominated social groups.

Bouverie Preserve Audubon Hiking Day Set for May 19th

Bouverie Preserve cordially invites all Audubon members and their families and friends to a private Audubon Hiking Day on Saturday, May 19th. Because this occasion is so popular, we must choose participants by lottery. Please call for a lottery form at 707/938–4554; or email a request to nancy@egret.org. Don't miss this once-a –year opportunity to see our beautiful preserve in Sonoma's Valley of the Moon in all its spring glory!

Kennicott's Owl

—By Harry Fuller

The Western Screech-owl is a breeding bird in wooded areas of Central California. Baird's Sandpiper is a rare but regular fall migrant along the California coast. Ross's Goose winters by the hundreds in the Central Valley. What they all have in common is Robert Kennicott (1835–1866), a superb and tireless field naturalist with a remarkable gift for building friendships. Those friends often became members of Kennicott's informal collecting network. As a result his brief life produced a rich trove of natural treasures from the northern reaches of this continent, most of which still reside in the Smithsonian and at the Chicago Academy of Natural Science. And it was Kennicott's network that first brought this owl, goose and sandpiper to the attention of science.

Kennicott grew up in Northfield, Illinois, near Chicago. As a youth his health was fragile so he was not sent to school and was informally but well-educated. His father was a professional horticulturalist so the son's interest in nature developed at home. In 1852 the teenage Robert was sent to Cleveland. There he studied natural history with family friend Dr. Jared Kirtland (of warbler fame), probably the Midwest's leading naturalist in the 1850s. He learned botany and zoology and became an acute field observer. Dr. Kirtland, of course, knew Spencer Baird at the Smithsonian. Baird was the great museum man who collected collectors, they in turn sent their finds to the Smithsonian. Kirtland connected

Kennicott to Baird via mail and the result was inevitable. During two successive winters from 1857–59, young Kennicott went to Washington where he worked for Baird at the Smithsonian, largely helping classify animals collected on the western frontier by Army personnel involved in railroad surveys. He became quite close to Baird's family and circle of young protégé naturalists.

Through Baird's connections, with

Smithsonian backing and that of the newly founded Chicago Academy, Kennicott went into northern Canada to collect. He left Chicago in 1859. Baird's political connections got Kennicott his entre to the Hudson's Bay Company and from there he tirelessly and successfully built his own collection of collectors. Baird himself slyly approved of his pupil's winning ways, at a time when liquor was used to preserve specimens. Hudson's Bay banned drink from their trading posts, but Baird noted:

"Kennicott realized that a little alcohol for his Mackenzie mates would go a long way toward securing their support, so when he received liquor from home...ostensibly to preserve specimens, he assiduously divided a good portion of it among the gentlemen."

Most importantly, Kennicott became a close friend of Hudson's Bay's chief trader, Bernard Ross, himself an avid natural scientist.

Ross wrote to Baird: "Every facility will be given to Mr. R. Kennicott to collect and forward specimens of natural history; free passage will be allowed him from post to post throughout the district, and to all his plans the various officers under my command will, I am sure, gladly render assistance."

Before he returned to the United States in 1862 in the midst of the Civil War, Kennicott visited Hudson's Bay posts across northwestern Canada. He collected around the Great Slave Lake and in the valleys of the Mackenzie and Yukon Rivers, covering thousands of miles on foot and dogsled. During the long days of the brief Arctic summers he would often work collecting and preparing specimens until he dropped from fatigue.

One of Kennicott's journal entries from May, 1860, is especially poignant today: "Shot Numenius Borealis (Eskimo Curlew). The base of the bill is not yellowish in life, but brownish flesh color."

It is unlikely that any of us will

ever again see a living Eskimo Curlew to confirm his observation.

Back in the U.S. because of his father's ill health, Kennicott was dissuaded from joining the Army and so went back to work at Smithsonian. He also became curator of the Chicago Academy. The indoor life did not please him as he wrote to a friend at one of the Hudson's Bay posts: "It's all very well to talk of the delights of the civilized world, but give me the comfortable North where a man can have some fun, see good days, and smoke his pipe unmolested. D—n civilization."

So it was that Kennicott headed back north right after the Civil War. This time Baird sent him as lead scientist with a Western Union Telegraph survey party into Russian America. Along with him Baird took a team of energetic young scientists, including William Dall who would become a leading expert on Alaska's natural history. Kennicott himself suffered a second and fatal heart attack near Nulato, Alaska, dying at age 30 in 1866. His team's field reports gave Baird much information that was used to justify the American purchase of Alaska that was completed in 1869.

It was that Alaska expedition which collected a small owl near Sitka and sent the specimen back to the Chicago Academy. There it was examined by Daniel Elliott who recognized a new species naming it *Otus kennicottii* (Western Screech-owl): "I simply express the desire which I am sure is felt by all ornithologists, to render honor to him who, combining the intrepidity of the explorer with the enthusiasm of the naturalist twice penetrated the forbidding cheerless districts of the far north, in order to extend the knowledge of his favorite science."

From the specimens sent by Kennicott to the Smithsonian, teenager Elliott Coues (1842–99) in

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The Birds Are Hungry – It's Our Spring Seed Sale Time!

It's been a while since our Fall seed sale and if your birds were like ours, they were eating an awful lot of seed to keep up their energy levels. So, its time to stock up once again with birdseed to feed our avian friends over the next few months. Please send in your order and make sure that there are a bunch of happy birds in your back yard. Most of our native birds favor either sunflower seeds (chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers, white-crowned sparrows, purple and house finches) or niger seed (goldfinches, pine siskins and chickadees).

Our next birdseed sale pick-up will take place on April 27 and 28.

If you wish to order seed, please fill out the adjacent seed-order form and mail it to us with a check made out to GGAS, with a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Orders should be received in the GGAS office by Thursday, April 19.

You can pick-up your seed on either Friday, April 27, from 3-6 PM or on Saturday, April 28, from 9 AM -12 Noon, at the Golden Gate Audubon Office in Berkeley.

We'll have plenty of extra seed on hand so if you didn't order enough, or forgot to order any at all, please come on down to the office. We'll have the seed you need!

Volkman seed is the best there is, it contains no waste seed and has been cleaned of debris and dust so you get what you pay for. If you have a question about which kind of seed to buy, give us a call at the GGAS Office, 510-843-2222.

As always, we have the Duncraft Feeder (a 16" long tube seed-feeder), a variety of hummingbird feeders, a fun thistle seed feeder (the birds twirl around as if on a carousel), and thistle stockings.

We also have the relatively new Sibley Guide to Birds (\$27 including member 10% discount and sales tax), Kaufman's Birds of North America (\$19.50), National Geographic Field Guide, third edition (\$21.25), and Peterson's Western Birds Field Guide (\$17.50). In addition, we have the very popular Birds of San Francisco Bay and the Bay Area by our own Joe Morlan. This is a great book for beginning birders or for children and it only costs \$9.75. Books can also be shipped to you for an additional fee of \$3.

Remember, your purchases provide an important source of income to GGAS, helping us to continue our conservation, education and field trip activities. We look forward to seeing you on seed sale day.

GGAS BIRD SEED AND FEEDER SALE ORDER AND PREPAY BY April 19, PICK-UP April 27 and April 28.

(All prices include sales tax.)

NAME	
ADDRESS	
CITY	
TELEPHONE (DAY)	(EVENING)

SEED			QUANTITY	AMOUNT
GGAS' OWN MIX	20 lbs.	\$ 9.25		
	50 lbs.	\$21.75		
<i>Contains only red and white millet and black oil sunflower seed</i>				
VOLKMAN PREMIUM WILD BIRD SEED	20 lbs.	\$ 8.75		
	50 lbs.	\$20.75		
<i>Composed of only red and white millet – no sunflower seeds (no squirrels)</i>				
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED	25 lbs.	\$9.75		
	50 lbs.	\$17.75		
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER CHIPS	25 lbs.	\$22.00		
<i>(No waste!)</i>				
NIGER (THISTLE) SEED	5 lbs.	\$ 7.50		
FEEDERS				
DUNCRAFT SEED FEEDER 16"		\$50.25		
THISTLE FEEDER		\$10.75		
THISTLE STOCKING		\$ 3.25		
SQUIRREL PROOF FEEDER (three tubes)		\$57.00		
HUMMINGBIRD (window)		\$10.75		
HUMMZINGER (saucer style, 16 oz.)		\$16.75		
HUMMINGBIRD (16 oz. bottle)		\$15.00		
SUET CAGE (2" x 5" x 5")		\$ 6.00		
SUET CAKE (11.75 oz.)		\$ 2.50		
			SUB-TOTAL	
<i>Be sure to include your check with a stamped and self-addressed envelope.</i>			CONTRIBUTION TO GGAS	
			TOTAL	

Mail and pick up at the GGAS office:
2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702



Field Trips Calendar

Sunday, April 1, STRYBING ARBORETUM.

See May trip for details. Leaders: Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna (415) 566-3241

Saturday, April 7, GARIN PARK, Hayward.

See March Gull for details. Leader: Anthony Fisher (510) 658-8769. loveisant@aol.com. \$ (parking).

Wednesday, April 11, MINI-TRIP TO SUNOL REGIONAL PARK.

See March Gull for details. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510) 351-9301, and Jean-Marie Spoelman \$(*)

Saturday, April 14, BREEDING BIRDS OF SAN FRANCISCO.

See March Gull for details. Leader: Harry Fuller (415) 668-8229, harry_fuller@zd.com. (*)

Saturday, April 21, POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL ALL-DAY BIRDING BLITZ.

(Joint activity: GGAS and National Park Service.) Meet at 8 a.m. at the Five Brooks Trailhead parking lot, approximately 3.5 miles south of Olema on the west side of Hwy. 1. We will bird the Five-Brooks Pond area, Limantour Spit, Drakes Beach, Chimney Rock and Point Reyes, ending at Bear Valley for a multi-habitat trip that usually tallies over 100 species. Bring water, food, and wear layered clothing for variable weather. Leaders: Leon Abrams (415) 453-9980 (work), (510) 843-4107 (home) and Cathy Purchis (*)

Saturday, April 22, SAN BRUNO MOUNTAINS

(San Mateo County, north of South San Francisco). Meet at 8 a.m. at the headquarters parking lot on Guadalupe Canyon Parkway on this half day trip, which is a joint activity

with the Friends of San Bruno Mountains. We expect to see birds migrating through as well as returning breeding birds such as Bullock's Orioles, Western Tanager, flycatchers and Wrentits. Winter Wren is particularly abundant in the San Bruno Mountains. Leaders: Herb Brandt (415) 239-2711 and Doug Allshouse. \$ to park in parking lot if gate is open.

Saturday, April 28, MINES ROAD, Livermore area.

Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot of the Nob Hill Shopping Center. Take 1-580 east and turn right on No. Livermore Exit. Continue south two miles to the Nob Hill Shopping Center at So. Livermore and Pacific in Livermore. From there, we will caravan on mountain roads to I-5. We can expect to see Bullock's Orioles, Lewis' Woodpecker, Lawrence's Goldfinches and Phainopeplas in this habitat. Bring food and liquids. Those who want are invited to continue with the group until dark. Because of very limited parking along roads, carpooling is strongly recommended. Leader: George Bing (925) 443-5868.

Sunday, April 29, TILDEN REGIONAL PARK.

Meet at 8 a.m. at the Nature Center parking lot for this half-day trip. Enter the park from either Canyon Drive (where Spruce meets Wildcat Canyon Rd.) or Shasta Rd., off Grizzly Peak Blvd. in Berkeley and follow the signs to the Nature Center at the north end of the park. We will bird Jewel Lake and other areas. Orange crowned Warblers and House Wrens should be vocal, Black-headed Grosbeaks should be present, and we hope to see migrating hummingbirds. Beginners welcome. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Lewis Cooper (510) 526-1773.

Saturday, May 5, BOTHE-NAPA VALLEY STATE PARK.

Meet at 9 a.m. at the parking lot in

front of the Visitor Center (at right just inside the park entrance). The park is located on Hwy. 29 about five miles north of St. Helena, and is exceptionally beautiful in spring: full of birds and wildflowers, but rarely crowded with human visitors. From the East Bay, take I-80 north to Vallejo; take the first Vallejo exit and go north on Hwy. 29. From San Francisco, take 101 north to Hwy. 37 (about 20 miles); turn right on 37 to Sears Point. Go left on Hwy. 121 north and east to Hwy. 29, then north about 20 miles to the park (or go through Oakland as above: the distance is much the same, about 65 miles total). Allow plenty of time for this drive - it can be foggy and very slow going. The birding will be largely by ear; the walking, about three miles or so, definitely non-athletic. Pileated Woodpecker is a possibility. Bring lunch and liquids. Trip will end early-to mid-afternoon. Beginners are welcome. Rain cancels. Leader: Peter Allen (415) 892-8063. (\$)

Sunday, May 6, STRYBING ARBORETUM.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front gate of the Arboretum (9th Ave. and Lincoln Way) for this regular first Sunday of the month half-day trip. The Strybing Arboretum is a delightful section of Golden Gate Park, with several "micro-habitats" attracting a varied array of resident, migrant and vagrant birds. Beginners and all others welcome. Leaders: Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna (415) 566-3241.

Wednesday, May 9, MINI-TRIP TO BRIONES REGIONAL PARK.

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the west entrance to the Park, off Bear Creek Road, at the parking area on the left, just beyond the fee booth. From Oakland take Hwy. 24 and take the Orinda exit. Turn left, under the freeway, on Camino Pablo. Continue northwest about two miles to Bear Creek Road.

Turn right and go about 4.5 miles to the Briones Regional Park entrance on the right (just beyond Happy Valley Road). From the Richmond area, take San Pablo Dam Road to Bear Creek Rd.; turn left on to Bear Creek Road. From Berkeley, cross through Tilden Regional Park on Wildcat Canyon Road, continuing beyond Inspiration Point. Cross San Pablo Dam Road onto Bear Creek Road. We should see and hear local breeding birds such as Lazuli Bunting, Chipping Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Black-headed Grosbeak, Ash-throated Flycatcher, orioles and more. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510) 351-9301, and Jean-Marie Spoelman. \$

Saturday, May 12, WILDCAT CANYON REGIONAL PARK.

Meet at 8 a.m. by the Arlington Clubhouse on Arlington Blvd. (next to the tennis courts between Brewster Dr. and Thors Bay Rd.) in El Cerrito. From there we will drive a short distance to the trailhead on Rifle Range Rd. We will encounter hills as we walk a transect of the canyon to bird the brushlands, oak woodlands, riparian streamsides and grasslands. We anticipate seeing a few late migrants such as Western Tanager

and a good representation of nesting birds including Grasshopper Sparrows and Lazuli Buntings. We will also identify common trees of the area. People with allergies should be aware that we will encounter grassy conditions. Bring lunch and liquids for this six mile hike which Malcom will lead for the 22nd year! The trip ends at about 2 p.m. Leader: Malcolm Sproul (925) 376-8945. (*)

Friday-Sunday, June 1-3, YOSEMITE'S BIRD LIFE.

See March Gull for details. Leaders: Dave Quady (510) 704-9353 and Bob Lewis. \$ (*)

Saturday-Sunday, June 16-17, YUBA PASS, SIERRA VALLEY.

On Saturday meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Yuba Pass summit parking area (Hwy. 49), 19 miles east of Sierra City. Take I-80 to Truckee, go north on Hwy. 89 to Sierraville and take Hwy. 49 west to Yuba Summit. (Or, take Hwy. 49 northeast from Auburn for a slower but more scenic route.) We will bird the mountain areas for summer residents including Dippers, flycatchers, warblers, and Calliope Hummingbirds. On Sunday meet at 8 a.m. at the intersection of Hwy. 49 and 89 (by the sawmill) about one

mile north of Sattley. We will caravan to Sierra Valley looking for birds of the eastern Sierra, including White-faced Ibis, Sandhill Crane, Sage Thrasher, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Camping is available at the following U.S. Forest Service campgrounds off Hwy. 49: Wild Plum (elev. 3300 ft.) 2 mi. east of Sierra City, and Chapman Creek (elev. 5800 ft.) 8 mi. east of Sierra City. Lodging is available at Sierra Chalet (530) 862-1110, Buttes Motel (530) 862-1170, Herrington's Sierra Pines (530) 862-1151, Bassett's Station Motel (530) 862-1297, Sierra Buttes Inn Motel (530) 862-1191, Yuba River Inn (530) 862-1122, and Busch & Herringbone Country Inn (530) 862-1501. (Check with proprietor for location of the motel or inn.) Leader: Peter Allen (415) 892-8063. (*)

Trips marked with a (\$) go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee. Carpooling arrangements will be attempted by leader for trips marked with a (*).

Problems, etc.: If you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, or **IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEAD A TRIP**, call Anthony Fisher, Field Trips Committee Chair, (510) 658-8769. Loveisant@aol.com.

Donations

Golden Eagle (\$1,000 or more)

H. Allan Ridley

Peregrine Falcon (\$500 or more)

Harold Kirker
Mary Schaefer

Least Tern (\$200 or more)

Anonymous
Richard Gale

Clapper Rail (\$100 or more)

David McCracken

Ann Elise and Daniel Emerson

Gifts (to \$99)

Allen Tolman, Jane Wrench, Olive Bavins, Lela Jacobson, Daniel Roth, Mary R. Belshe, Mrs. Laurence Stein, Marian Ttee (for the Least Tern), Ronald Morrison, Edward V. Stackpoole, S. J. (Save the Quail), George S. Peyton, Jr., and Kenneth Jorgensen.

Bird Box

Edward Walsh, Jr. and George Peyton

In Memorium

Carolyn Kolka in memory of **Caroline and Don Plant**, Mary Louise and John Correia in memory of **Paul Stempen**, Harriet Fraser in memory of **Mary Louise Rosegay**

A bequest to the Golden Gate Audubon Society helps make it possible for us to continue the good work we do in helping to preserve our natural world for future generations. If you are interested in setting up a bequest we have a team of experts who will be glad to help you. Please call Arthur Feinstein at our GGAS Office for more information. Our phone number is 510-843-2222. Thanks.

Winging it on the Web

Audubon Program Launches New Web Site

The Audubon San Francisco Bay Restoration Program is finally on the web! Visit our new site at www.AudubonSFbay.org. The site includes background information about the SF Bay Estuary, a detailed map with descriptions of potential restoration sites, action alerts and information about Bay-related recreation and education activities.

For East Bay and Bay Area Birders

Want to know something and everything about birds and birding in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties? Then you will want to discover, if you haven't already done so, the fabulous East Bay Birders Circle site (<http://folkbird.net/ebb/>). Among other things, it has an incredible list of links to well over 100 other bird sites. They also have an Ebird Mailing List and a complete calendar of

Kennicott's Owl...

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1861 recognized a new sandpiper. He named it *Calidris bairdii* (Baird's Sandpiper) for his mentor.

It was John Cassin who finally gave the little white goose its place in science, after examining specimens sent to the Smithsonian by Bernard Ross with Kennicott's encouragement. Ross's letters to the Smithsonian had insisted that the little goose was a separate species. It was not until 1930 that another Hudson's Bay man found the first Ross's Goose nest.

The next time you hear the call of a Screech-owl or watch a line of Ross's Geese cross a wintry marsh, perhaps you can offer a silent salute to Robert Kennicott who loved our Arctic and noted the color of an Eskimo Curlew's beak.

events.

Other features of the site include Christmas bird counts in Northern California, East Bay weather and tides, rare bird alerts and birder discussion groups. If you are like me, once you log onto this site you will keep going and going and going.

Bay Crossings Magazine

Bay Crossings Magazine, a monthly journal of cultural, maritime and environmental issues affecting San Francisco Bay, features a lengthy article about the potential acquisition of

the South Bay salt ponds owned by Cargill Salt. If federal and state funding can be secured, acquisition and restoration of this 19,000-acre property would increase the Bay's tidal marsh habitat by nearly 50 percent. Read all about it at www.baycrossings.org.

Do you have a favorite Web site that you would like to share and review for GGAS members? If you do, email me at peter_caldwell@attglobal.net and we will run it in *The Gull*.

Keeping GGAS Going

As our population expands and our open spaces diminish, our Bay's wildlife have an ever-harder time simply trying to exist. Nearly every week GGAS gets a call from someone desperately seeking help to preserve some wildlife habitat. We do what we can. The list of habitats still around due to GGAS efforts increases yearly; Heron's Head Park in San Francisco, the Martin Luther King Jr. wetland in San Leandro Bay, are just some recent ones.

Our education programs address the issue on a long-term basis. If today's kids understand the wonders of nature they will be supporters of preserving it in the future.

All of these efforts take huge amounts of staff and volunteer time and ultimately they all cost money. You can help us in our efforts by volunteering, by writing letters to policy makers when we ask you to, and through your financial support.

To help ensure that we have sufficient financial resources in the future to continue our good work, please consider placing a charitable bequest to the Golden Gate Audubon Society in your will or living trust. There are significant tax advantages that may be available by making a bequest to a non-profit organization such as Golden Gate Audubon.

The following is suggested wording for making such a bequest. Please feel free to share this information with your estate advisor.

"I hereby give and bequeath to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc., in Berkeley, California, the amount of

(state dollar amount of gift or percent of estate)

to be used exclusively to fund the general and unrestricted conservation purposes of the Golden Gate Audubon Society. Golden Gate Audubon Society Tax ID # 94-6086896."

If you have any questions or would like to discuss a possible gift through a bequest or charitable trust, please feel free to call Executive Director Arthur Feinstein at 510-843-2222. We have a team of volunteer experts in this field who can advise you on the best course for you.

We hope this is of interest to those of our members who are contemplating the future and who hope to give our natural world a little bit of help. Thanks.



It's Springtime, Which Means It's Bird Time

Between rainstorms I try to sneak into the garden to enjoy fresh air and the increased activity among the birds as they begin their spring courtship. The oak titmouse begins his springtime song, "tuwituwituwit" at the first light of dawn. How can such a small bird have such a commanding voice? The rest of the year he lends a bury accent to a call similar to a chickadee's. With his song he's now declaring his territory to any other males as well as broadcasting his availability to the females in the neighborhood.

Nearly as vocal is the snappy little Bewick's wren. Another big voice for his size, he regales us with phrase after phrase from a prominent perch. As he sings, his beak is so wide open that if he had tonsils, we would be able to see them! One has been snooping around a bird box on my front porch so I hope it meets with his approval. Another loud songster is the handsome song sparrow whose opening notes remind me of those beginning Beethoven's 5th Symphony. (Due to regional "accents" your song sparrow may sound different!)

The Anna's hummingbirds are still nesting in March (some started in January). I have some wonderful lint from drying a new cotton rug that they enjoy as nesting material. (No fabric softeners, please.) Trips to the sugar water feeder probably help to raise their young—with no help from deadbeat Dad, it's a big job.

The goldfinches are beginning to brighten in color and the house finches seem to be pairing up. One particularly bright cherry red finch caught my eye as well as a female's interest. He posed on a bare oak branch as he sang. To my delight it was a purple finch. His song is much like a warbling vireo's, a rather rapid, happy, bubbly song. I was able to

note his rounded head and when he flew his tail was notched. The house finch is much slimmer with a slightly notched but longer tail. Both purple and house finches are brightly colored on their heads and chests but the purple has a reddish back while the house finch's back is brownish. The color of house finches seems to vary a lot. Sometimes they are yellowish or orange; some are pinkish while others are red. This is probably due to their diets. The female purple finch has a boldly patterned head and a slightly greenish back. See if you can pick one out of the flock.

Other courting birds in my yard are several pair of California towhees. I used to find them common and boring. They are quite calm, rather "tame" birds who aren't very exciting with their harsh "teek" calls. But I heard an unknown song one-day and spotted a towhee perched on a limb. I enjoyed its series of notes as it tried to attract attention from someone in the bird world. Hence, I have a new appreciation for "Brownie."

Now, the spotted towhee is another matter. I find it stunning with its red eye and contrasting black, orange and white markings. When we first moved to Orinda, I was not a birder yet and kept hearing a buzzing bird sound, somewhat like a big insect. I could never see the bird and became curious. Finally, the spotted towhee showed itself, energetically jumping back and forth under dense shrubbery trying to uncover something yummy for a meal. It made so much noise that I thought it was a rabbit or other small mammal! Instead, it was a feast for my eyes.

Another bird who eluded me as a burgeoning birder was the Wrentit. I must have heard it for years before I finally saw the bird, which sang notes resembling a bouncing ping pong ball. Once seen, the Wrentit quickly became a favorite. Its curiosity is

insatiable so that if you sit quietly and make a "pishing" noise, it can't resist hopping ever closer to see what's making that sound. A visit to the Point Reyes Observatory where they have studied Wrentits in depth only heightened my appreciation of them. They are very familial and will perch all together with wings round each other in the cold. The parents defend their nests very dramatically. If you were lucky enough to find a nest amidst their favorite habitat, poison oak, the parents would attempt to distract you with a series of swan dives off low branches. If you didn't leave after a bird "crashed", it would get up and repeat the whole performance until you departed. These birds spend their whole lives in their own little territory. It may not be a spectacular bird with its plain brownish color and pale eyes, but it is "special": it has no close relatives in N. America. It is found only in Mexico, Oregon and California (although I noticed that Sibley's new book extends its region much further).

The acorn woodpeckers have returned to my feeders after a winter hiatus, in anticipation of expanding families. They have quite a large colony up on my ridge, enjoying the many oaks along with the occasional telephone pole. Last year's young will help their parents to feed the new youngsters. The sounds of loud, insistent drumming ring through the air. Being very vocal, they set up continuous conversations: "whack-up, whack-up, whack-up"! My grandson wondered what birds made those annoying sounds! I think their calls suit their clownlike appearance.

Whether the birds in your yard are plain or fancy, springtime is a great time to get outside and enjoy the wonder of the season.



The stormy weather pattern continued over much of the period, bringing with it increased reports of pelagic species blown toward the shore. The month also brought news of what many think is an amazing rarity visiting the shores of MRN county, sparking much discussion and debate.

Albatross to Ducks.

The wintering Laysan Albatross continued at its usual site in Pt. Arena, MEN, Feb. 10 (PS). Many storm-driven Northern Fulmars were found close to shore. Hundreds of them were seen off SF Feb. 11-12 (ME, JaW, DM, MOB). Many more were seen off Pacific Grove and Carmel, MTY, Feb. 17 (MPRBA). At least 6 beached ones were found dead on Manresa Beach, MTY, Feb. 11 (BN), and single birds were sighted over the Emeryville Marina, ALA, Feb. 22 (DW), and at the Fish Docks, PRNS, MRN, Feb. 24 (JMo, RF). Also found near land were two Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels at Bodega Head, SON, Feb. 10 (RL). College Lake, SCZ, hosted 38 White-faced Ibis, Feb. 7, far more than the usual winter record of 1-2 birds at that location (DSu).

Condors to Ducks.

The California Condors were still being observed near their release site in the Ventana Wilderness, as well as in Pfeiffer Big Sur SP, MTY, during February (EVD). For up-to-date information about the condors, birders are encouraged to check out the Ventana Wilderness Society website (www.ventanaws.org/). At least 14 reports of Greater White-fronted Geese occurred over ALA, HUM, LAK, SF, SCL, and SON counties, with 6 found at Lake Merritt Estuary, ALA, Feb. 17 (JMo). A Snow Goose was at Arcata, HUM, Feb. 4 (ABB) and another was seen at the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant, SCL, Feb. 23 (AG). A Ross's Goose continued at

Crespi Pond, Pacific Grove, MTY, Jan. 30, joined by another on Feb. 8 (MPRBA). Single birds were reported from Manila, HUM, Feb. 3 (ABB), and Arcata, HUM, Feb. 11 (ABB). A Tundra Swan remained at Laguna, MTY, Feb. 7 (JP) while a flock of 239 of that species were at Minor Hole Rd., Pt. Arena, MEN, Feb. 26 (RH). There was a belated report of a **Whooper Swan** (*Cygnus cygnus*) at Lower Klamath NWR, SIS, Jan. 10 (JB), and it has been in the area since November. This species is reported to breed in Iceland, Northern Europe and Siberia, and is exceedingly rare in the state, with most records from the Lower Klamath NWR (Small, 1994).

The Wood Duck prize for the month goes to the Almaden Reservoir, SCL, with 89 individuals there on Feb. 19 (MM). The high count for Eurasian Wigeons was up to 15 birds at Bolinas Lagoon, MRN (ME, RLi, SRv, MOB). Single Eurasian Wigeons were also seen at Arcata, HUM, Feb. 6-8 (ABB), at Palo Alto Flood Control Basin, SCL, Feb. 8 (RC), and at Elkhorn Slough, MTY, Feb. 8 (MPRBA). The Eurasian subspecies of the Green-winged Teal continued at Palo Alto Baylands, SCL, Feb. 5 (SM). A Tufted Duck was reported at Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, Feb. 3-24 (fide ME, LL, Doug Shaw, MOB), another was seen off Hwy. 20 east of Lucerne, LAK, Feb. 11 (JW), and the wintering female continued at L. Merritt, ALA, Feb. 18 (ES). The **King Eider** (*Somateria spectabilis*) first reported in December was still at Chimney Rock, PRNS, MRN, as of Feb. 25 (MW, JMo, RF). Several Harlequin Ducks were at the Chimney Rock location Feb. 15 (MW), and another was at King Salmon, HUM, Feb. 10 (ABB), and a whopping 11 were near Glass Beach, MEN, Feb. 22 (DT). Long-tailed Duck (Oldsquaw) reports continued to be abundant, with 3-5 still at Moss Landing, MTY, Jan. 30-Feb. 25 (MPRBA), one at Princeton Harbor, SM, Jan. 30-Feb. 19 (AJ, AE), one at

Fields Landing, HUM, Feb. 10 (ABB), 3 at the Fish Docks, PRNS, MRN, Feb. 24 (JMo, RF), one at San Leandro Marina, ALA, Feb. 22 (KR), and two in Monterey Bay, MTY, Feb. 25 (RFo). Two Hooded Mergansers were at Palo Alto Baylands, SCL, Feb. 5 (SM, RC), 5 were seen at L. Merced, SF, Feb. 23 (BF), one was at Berkeley Aquatic Park, ALA, Feb. 26 (ES), and another was at the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin, SCL, Feb. 26 (BB).

Hawks to Alcids.

A Northern Goshawk was at Five Brooks Ponds, PRNS, MRN, Feb. 25 (DaW), and Broad-winged Hawk first reported in December continued in Santa Cruz, SCZ, until at least Feb. 24 (JeD, MS). Up to 4 Rough-legged Hawks were in Arcata, HUM, Feb. 4 (ABB), one was at Laguna, MTY, Feb. 7 (JP), and another first reported in October at Coyote Hills Regional Park, ALA, continued there throughout the period (PG, MD). On Feb. 25, another Rough-legged Hawk was spotted along Bloomfield Ave., SCL (AE).

By far the most exciting bird news for the month, and perhaps for the year, was the appearance of a probable **Greater Sandplover** (*Charadrius leschenaultii*) at Seadrift at the south end of Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, Jan. 29 (SHo, SAB). This accommodating bird stayed around until at least Feb. 26, allowing MOB to agonize over its identity. Some argued that it was a Mongolian Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*), which would still be a nice record, but nothing like it would be to have a 1st Western Hemisphere record for the Greater Sandplover, normally a bird of the Asian interior, although it does migrate to Australia. Further news about the outcome of the dispute will be reported here eventually, but stay tuned to Joe Morlan's website as well, where several photographs and a video are to be found (<http://fog.ccsf.cc.ca.us/~jmorlan/sandplover.htm>).

Fifty Mountain Plovers were near Panoche Valley Rd., SBT, Feb. 12 (SA). Three Black Oystercatchers were at Point Emery, CC, Feb. 17 and another was spotted at Richmond Marina Bay, CC, Feb. 17 (LT). Five Red Knots were an uncommon sight at Arrowhead Marsh, ALA, Feb. 18 (LF, CP). Seven Rock Sandpipers were reported during the period: single birds at Miramonte Point, SM, Feb. 1 (AKr), in Shelter Cove, HUM, Jan. 28 (ABB), and at Fairhaven, HUM, Feb. 4 (ABB), and 4 near Laguna Point, MacKerricher SP, MEN, Feb. 22 (DT). A Stilt Sandpiper continued at Merced NWR, MER, Feb. 4 (FB), as did a Ruff at Don Edwards SF Bay NWR at the Dumbarton Bridge, ALA, through Feb. 24 (MR, MD). Another Ruff was at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, YOL, Feb. 5-17 (JH, SH).

Five individual Glaucous Gulls were reported: at Gazos Creek, SM, Feb. 1 (JiW), at Ano Nuevo State Reserve, SM, Feb. 3 (PJM), at Fernbridge, HUM, Feb. 5-16 (ABB), at Almaden Larke, SCL, Feb. 19 (AE), and one at Aptos Creek, SCZ, Feb. 11 (RW), was joined by another Feb. 15 (DSu). Shoreline locations for Black-legged Kittiwakes included L. Merced, SF, Feb. 11 (CL), the San Lorenzo R. mouth, SCZ, Feb. 17 (MSh), Princeton Harbor, SM, Feb. 17 (GD), the Carmel R. mouth, MTY, Feb. 24 (SRv), and the Salinas R. mouth, MTY, Feb. 23 (TG). A notable but sad report was that of a **Red-legged Kittiwake** (*Rissa brevirostris*), a bird of the Aleutians, that was found early in February on private property in MRN, emaciated and anemic, and expired even after treatment at Wildcare (fide DA). Two Elegant Terns, a species that has very few February records for the CA coast, were at Capitola Beach, SCZ, Feb. 5 (DSu). Black Skimmers continued at Charleston Slough, SCL, with 7 reported Feb. 19 (MM). A first CC county record for Cassin's Auklet occurred Feb. 24 near Brooks Island (SG). The obliging bird then flew into neighboring ALA county, providing a 3rd or 4th county record there (SG).

Hummingbirds to Grackles.

A Costa's Hummingbird was heard at Los Alamitos Creek, SCL, Feb. 15 (JD), and an early Rufous Hummingbird was seen at Beel Drive, MTY, Feb. 19 (DSu). Up to 5 Lewis's Woodpeckers were reported from Round Valley RP, CC, Feb. 4-19 (BBr, ES), and a Red-naped Sapsucker was at Pot Belly gulch, MTY, Feb. 14-15 (JeW, DSu). Another Red-naped Sapsucker was seen in Ed Levin SP, SCL, Feb. 26 (DG). An Eastern Phoebe continued at Merced NWR, MER, Feb. 5 (FB), and Tropical Kingbirds also continued at their locations in GGP, SF, Feb. 4-24 (ME, HF, BF), at Ft. Mason, SF, Feb. 5 (ME), and in San Mateo, SM, Feb. 2 (HH), while the **Thick-billed Kingbird** (*Tyrannus crassirostris*) remained at Ocean Colony, SM, Feb. 1 (AKr). A Northern Shrike was reported from Fairhaven, HUM, Feb. 3 (ABB), another was along Mapes Rd., LAS, Feb. 25 (RR), and a lowland American Dipper was at Samuel P. Taylor SP, MRN, Feb. 9 (RS). Wood Warbler reports were still sparse during February, with the most unusual a 1st winter record for a Hooded Warbler in CC county (see Chart).

A Clay-colored Sparrow was seen at Pescadero, SM, Feb. 3 (RSTh), and a Swamp Sparrow was found at Limantour Beach, PRNS, MRN, Feb. 14 (SB). Six individual White-throated Sparrow reports were received: from SCL county Jan. 31 (JDu), MTY county Feb. 1 (CA), Almedan Reservoir, SCL, Feb. 5-26 (AV, FV, MM), Garberville, HUM, Jan. 28 (ABB), Pine Lake, SF, Feb. 11 (DM), and China Grade, SCZ, Feb. 18 (DSu). A McCown's Longspur was discovered at Browning Rd., COL, Feb. 11 (KG), and two Lapland Longspurs were at Abbott's Lagoon, PRNS, Feb. 17 (RS). Three Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported: in Garberville, HUM, Jan. 28 (ABB), in Arcata, HUM, Feb. 4-7 (ABB), and in a private yard in SF, Feb. 19 (BD). An Indigo Bunting graced Half Moon Bay, SM, Feb. 11 (RSTh). The Great-tailed Grackle continues to extend its

Wood Warbler Sightings

Tennessee Warbler

Feb. 4 Harding Park, SF ME

Nashville Warbler

Feb. 4 Natural Bridges AK
SP, SCZ

Feb. 4 Eureka, HUM ABB

Feb. 16 New Brighton DSu.
State Beach, SCZ

Lucy's Warbler

Feb. 10 Half Moon Bay, SM RSTh

Cape May Warbler

Feb. 3-24 Seadrift, MRN fide ME,
DS, MOB

Palm Warbler

Feb. 3-18 Seadrift, MRN fide ME,
DS, RLi

Feb. 4 Natural Bridges AK
SP, SCZ

Feb. 8 Humboldt, HUM ABB

Black-and-White Warbler

Feb. 3 Pescadero RSTh
Creek, SM

Feb. 4 Mountain Lake, SF AR

Feb. 10 Fortuna, HUM ABB

Northern Waterthrush

Feb. 1 Pt. Arena, MEN ABB

Hooded Warbler

Feb. 4 Rossmoor, Walnut SG
Creek, CC

Abbreviations for Observers: SAb, Sue Abbott; SA, Steve Allison; CA, Carol Anderson; ABB, Arcata Bird Box; DA, David Armstrong; SB, Steve Bauer; FB, Florence Bennett; BB, Bill Bousman; JB, John Bragg; BBr, Bob Brandriff; RC, Richard Carlson; JD, Jim Danzenbaker; JeD, Jeff Davis; GD, Gary Deghi; BD, Barbara Deutsch; MD, Matthew Dodder; JDu, Jean Dubois; ME, Mark Eaton; AE, Al Eisner; RF, Robbie Fischer; BF, Brian Fitch; Rfo, Rob Fowler; LF, Lillian Fujii; HF, Harry Fuller; DG, Don Ganton; AG, A. Gibb; SG, Steve Glover; PG, Phil Gordon; KG, Kevin Gousset; TG, Tom Grey; SH, Steve Hampton; JMo, Joe Morlan; DM, Dan Murphy; BN, Barbara Novelli; CP, Courtenay Peddle; JP, Jeff Poklen; RR, Richard Redmond; KR, Kathy Robertson; MR, Micko Rouen; SRv, Steve Rovell; AR, Andrew Rush; PS, Paul Saraceni; MS, Michelle Scott; DS, Doug Shaw; MSh, Mike Sherrill; RS, Rich Stallcup; ES, Emilie Strauss; DSu, David Suddjian; RSTh, Ron S. Thorn; DT, Dorothy Tobkin; LT, Larry Tunstall; EVD, Elizabeth Van Dyke; FV, Frank Vanslager; AV, Ann Verdi; JW, Jerry White; JiW, Jim White; MW, Michael Wienholt; DW, Denise Wight; DaW, Dan Williams; JeW, Jean Williams; JaW, Jay Withgott; RW, Roger Wolfe.

Abbreviations for Counties and Others: ALA, Alameda; COL, Colusa; CC, Contra Costa; HUM, Humboldt; LAK, Lake; LAS, Lassen; MRN, Marin; MEN, Mendocino; MER, Merced; MTY, Monterey; NWR, National Wildlife Refuge; PRNS, Point Reyes National Seashore; SBT, San Benito; SF, San Francisco; SM, San Mateo; SCL, Santa Clara; SCZ, Santa Cruz; SIS, Siskiyou; SON, Sonoma; SP, State Park; YOL, Yolo.

range, with one seen at the Oakland International Airport, ALA, Feb. 4 (MMi), and another 4 at Laguna Grande, Seaside, MTY, Feb. 24 (SRv).



April Meeting

Splits, Lumps & New Species – What's Going On?

Ever wonder why we had three species of sapsucker, then only one, then two and now we're back to three? What happened to bring back the Bullock's and Baltimore orioles? Why did Red-shafted Flicker and Yellow-shafted Flicker become Northern Flicker? How did Solitary Vireo get split into 3 separate species? Why aren't there 5 species of dark-eyed juncos instead of just Dark-eyed? Just how different is our newest species, the Gunnison Sage Grouse? And why could we get new species out of Steller's Jays, Spotted Towhees, Fox Sparrows and ... who knows what else?

Answers to these questions and

more will be provided by our special guest speaker, Dr. Carla Cicero, at the April meeting. Dr. Cicero is a Research Associate at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at UC Berkeley, and a pre-eminent ornithologist. It was her work which led to the split of Plain Titmouse into two separate species, our local Oak Titmouse and the inland Juniper Titmouse. She is currently a member of the prestigious AOU Checklist Committee, which decides just which birds are species and which are not. Come hear Carla's fascinating account of just what goes into making our checklists get bigger and smaller.

Thursday, April 19, 2001
7:00 p.m. Refreshments
7:30 p.m. Program
Northbrae Community Church
941 The Alameda, Berkeley

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

As a member of National Audubon Society, you are automatically enrolled in the local chapter, Golden Gate Audubon Society. Chapter benefits include receipt of *The Gull*, access to field trips and programs, and the opportunity to volunteer. Call the office if you have any questions.

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